FORMAN'S

DIAMOND JUBILEE

HISTORY

1884-1959

FORMAN, NORTH DAKOTA
JUNE 11-12-13

Welcome to Forman on Its 75th Anniversary

The City of Forman has made good progress in its 75 years, and I have confidence that it will continue.

I am sure the pioneers that worked so hard and sacrificed much to start this community would be happy with the modern city that we have today, which is a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

Best regards from the City Council.

A. E. Saunders, Mayor

A Hearty Thank You

As Forman's Diamond Jubilee approaches, it behooves me to extend my sincere thanks to all those who so faithfully served on the various committees. It was through a great deal of cooperation during the past several months that we are able to present this three-day event.

Had it not been for the cooperation of the committees, the people of this community, former residents and every one who helped with the celebration, the task of directing the jubilee would have been very difficult.

The response received from everyone shows that Forman truly is a grand place to live. It is my hope that this sense of cooperation will always be evident in the thriving City of Forman.

To everyone who helped with our celebration, I offer my most sincere appreciation.

Forman's Diamond Jubilee, Incorporated

Antone P. Hipp, Chairman

A DEDICATION

To The Pioneers of Forman and Community

To
those
valiant and
stalwart men and
women, who gave of
their sacrifices, deeds, purposes
and principles — we pay homage.

We who
bear the name
and blood of those
pioneers, who braved the forces
of nature in an unsettled west, to
make for themselves and families, a new
home of their own creation, we bow in humility and grateful thanks.

We are
humble and words
are inadequate to do
justice to our appreciation
of the hardships they endured,
that we might fulfill the destiny of their
purposes. We realize the adventurous spirit
that lured these pioneers on to new fields of en-
deavor. Through this challenge and their courage and faith
in God, we are deeply grateful to them for giving us this, our
wonderful community in which to live.

Proudly and
gratefully we dedicate
our town and community — through
this book and Jubilee Celebration — to our beloved Pioneers.

Colonel C. H. Forman Founds A Town

In commemorating our town at this time, we must pause to pay tribute to our founder — a man whose history is inseparable from that of the town of Forman.

Colonel Cornelius Hageman Forman is identified with the advancement of Forman, from its very earliest history.

Mr. Forman first settled in this territory in 1882, taking a squatters right near the present site of the town of Forman. This was before the county was surveyed; but, shortly afterward, when the land was surveyed, the Colonel bought it with clean cash, the quarter upon which our town is platted.

Forman Residence

Returning to his native state of Michigan in the winter of 1882 and 1883, Colonel Forman induced a colony of Michigan folks to return to Dakota with him — among them some of the wealthiest and most active men of that section of Michigan. This took place in the spring of 1883.

Many of these new-comers took to farming, while a few entered upon their old business of real estate dealers and the mercantile line.

With this Michigan colony and others who joined him were: his brother, Wm. Forman; his son, Harry Forman, A. Wells, Wm. Hudson, Wm. H. Groff, George Silverthorn, E. W. Bowen, G. C. Lillie, C. W. Sprague, Mr. Stewart, W. T. Mullen, H. L. VanOrnum, and others who were the first active settlers in the immediate vicinity of Forman.

His remarkable vision is recalled by the advancement of Forman. Since the townsite is located in the exact geographical center of the county, Mr. Forman early recognized it as the home of the county seat. His motto was "We have what we claim to have".

He interested himself and was chiefly responsible for the final location of the county seat at this point. In so doing, so great was his public spirit, he sacrificed his private fortune of $50,000 to accomplish his various aims.

As long as the Colonel retained his health, the best interests of Forman were his. The township, school district and the town all bear his name, since he was the founder of the town, and the owner of the original townsite.

The Colonel was a native of New Brunswich, having been born in St. John's July 15, 1828. His forebearers came of old New York stock, of the 17th century. He graduated from the common school of Hamilton, Ontario.

In 1872, he went with his brother to Michigan, where he founded the town of Forman in that state. The manufacture of lumber was his chief interest for the following eleven years. He won honor and distinction as a man of unassailable principle and unselfish devotion to the public welfare. In his make up there was no room for failure.

Colonel Forman was a friend of all children; nicknamed "Goppy" by his grandchildren and always called that by those who knew and loved him.

For fifteen years he was justice of the peace, in which office, by the exercise of diplomacy, tact and sheer kindness of heart, he made friends of all with whom he came in contact. He had a keen sense of justice, and his decisions met with universal approval. He was township supervisor for twelve years, and of the village for ten years, and for over twenty years he was clerk of the Forman school board.

That Colonel Forman was interested in religious work may be seen by his liberal donation of two lots where the Congregational Church now stands. He drew up and headed the subscription list for the erection of the church building.

Mr. and Mrs. Forman erected one of the first houses in Forman. It still remains a fine, large residence, one block east of main street. The first tree planted in Forman, was planted by Mr. Forman - a silver leaf maple, to grow to be a beautiful big tree, serving almost as a monument to the work Colonel Forman strived to do. Only in recent years was the tree damaged by a storm, to the extent that it had to be removed.

Among other buildings erected by the Colonel, may the Midland Hotel be mentioned; the building north of the Dyste store, now owned by R. J. Betting; the Groff store building on the site of the hardware store building, now owned by Charles O. Dewey; and the residence now owned by the Frank Bommersbach family.

Colonel Forman made his home in Forman in the residence he had first erected, until the death of his wife. He spent his last years with his son and daughter-in-law, the late Mr. and Mrs. Harry Forman, of this place.

This weary pilgrim was called to his reward on March 13, 1923, in the fullness of his years, at the age of ninety-three, after a life time devoted to the interests of Sargent County, and the town of Forman of which he was the founder. Blessed be his memory!

Business Men of Formar
1904
Dysle Bros
merchants
Chas. Marallus
Merchant
Mr. Hurley
Editor
Hardware Dealer
Louis Stemke
Real Estate
Dealer
Chas M Deville
Livery
Frank Algermeyer
Confectionary
Casper Smith
Real Estate
Dealer
John McCarey
Wheat Raiser - Horse Stock
Merchant

Early History of Forman

As Found In One Of The First Newspapers

Forman is situated on the northeast quarter of Section 1, Township 130, North Range 56, in a newly created Sargent County of Dakota Territory, created from the south half of Ransom County.

Sargent County is 24 by 36 miles containing 24 townships or 552,960 acres of the choicest farm and grazing lands in the Territory. Breaking for the summer of 1884 aggregated in the neighborhood of 60,000 acres. Situated exactly in the center of the county and on the proposed Dakota Midland Rail Road from Browns Valley, Minn., is the thriving city of Forman, whose age at this time is but a few months, and yet the place has all the proportion and stir of business of a thriving young city.

The town's admirable surroundings, desirable location, ample water supply, and excellent transportation facilities are not and will not be surpassed by any town in Central Dakota. The earth has brought forth abundantly her fruits to the toiler.

Sargent County calls to all who wish to take advantage of her rich soil to come and share the reward.

Forman is the center of this rich agricultural field. We want more stores and business houses. We want to dispose of our lots to actual residents and to those who will aid us in our laudable aims.

This was the vision and foresight of Colonel C. H. Forman, who so unselfishly gave of his homestead, the present townsite of Forman, in the year 1883.

Dakota Territory was divided in October, 1889, and on November 2nd, 1889, North Dakota was admitted as a state to the Union.

By December of 1883 the prospects of Forman were bright and glorious. Citizens were willing to stake their all on her destiny.

By this date the following pursuits and avocations were carried on in Forman:

The Midland - a large and spacious hotel, accommodating forty guests.
George McDermott

The Pioneer (General Store) - dry goods, groceries, clothing, boots and shoes, and crockery. Forman and Groff

Blacksmith - blacksmithing and wagon repair. Charles Moore

Land Agents - general land loan and insurance business.
Ellsworth and Wells

Forman was elected the county seat of Sargent County in 1884, receiving 128 more votes than all other contestants, and by due course of law was declared the official County Seat of the County. The County Seat officers were duly housed in a wooden building on main street of Forman from 1886 until 1910, when a beautiful new brick court house was built on a block in the center of the town, which was given to the county by Colonel C. H. Forman, founder of our town.

The Court House is 75 by 100 feet, built at a cost of about $50,000. The county commissioners at the time of the erection were: John Sundquist, Peter Weber, Ed C. Enge, and Nels Peterson, with R. P. Irving as auditor.

A public school, a wooden frame building was built in 1884, the first teacher being W. E. Patterson.

The Soo Railroad came through Forman in the summer of 1887, and still remains our only railroad.

People have come and gone; blizzards, droughts, depressions and wars, have touched and left their mark on our little city, but we still retain a strong community interest. We can laugh and cry at the happenings of the by-gone days, but the inner hearts remain true and loyal to God and all mankind. May that true pioneer spirit still prevail.

A street scene before 1890. First post office at extreme left.

Experiences and Hardships of Pioneer Life

The homes of the pioneers were a far cry from those they left in the east or their homeland across the seas. Many of them were huts built of sod and with rough wooden floors. The sod was often white washed on the inside to create a cheerier appearance. Some were dugouts built into the side of a hill. The remains of one of these may still be seen on the road going west from the Sundquist farm. It was the first home of Anders Per Anderson, A. W. Anderson's grandfather. Other claim shanties were tar paper shacks of one or two rooms. During hot weather, the water, the butter, the bread, in fact everything was tar perfumed. When hail came with the rain it tore holes in the tarpaper roof so everything in the shack became wet.

The furniture was usually hand made. The children slept on the floor in the loft, if there was a loft, but the parents' bed was made of boards nailed together and fastened to the side of the room. There were cross boards for slats upon which were placed ticks filled with straw or hay. Tables were made of boards which were often on hinges so they could be lowered when not in use. Benches served as chairs. The home was lighted with kerosene or, if that was not available, by a rag in a dish of fat. The fuel used in the sheet iron stoves was buffalo "chips" and twisted hay. The children often spent their evenings twisting hay to be used for fuel.

The food was very simple. Biscuits composed of flour, baking powder, water, and grease were baked in the sheet iron stove. Quantities of sow belly were consumed. It was a common sight to see the Norwegians cooking "flote grodt" (milk mush) in a huge kettle over an open fire out of doors. Until the pioneers could raise their own vegetables, they were unknown as they were too expensive to buy in cans. Dried apples and prunes were other luxuries.

The only means of transportation was by oxen. Very few of the homesteaders had horses. It was no unusual occurrence for the pioneers from Forman and vicinity to walk to Lisbon or Milnor for supplies carrying a sack of flour and other provisions. One farmer was so late in returning from Milnor with provisions that when J. C. Brandt called at the farm he found the children crying because they were hungry. He immediately went home for bread and milk. That mother never forgot J. C. Brandt. No pioneer had an abundance of material goods, but what they had, they shared.

In the early days there was a stage and mail route maintained between Forman and Lisbon. It was driven by Zopher Nelson with a team of horses. He exacted exorbitant fees for bringing supplies.

The early settlers plowed with a walking plow. When they used oxen, they were hoarse in the evening after having shouted at the oxen all day. They seeded with what was called a broad cast seeder and often used three mules hitched to this seeder — one ahead of the other instead of side by side. They threshed their grain with horse power. Then came the threshing machine, run by a steam engine. When the first elevators came into use, horse power was used to elevate the grain and because the horse walked in a circle constantly his eyes were put out to make him fit for this service.

By this time, there was no danger from Indians, but the women were afraid of some of the characters which roamed the prairies. One farm wife had rigged up a ladder into the loft of the one room shack. If she was alone when she saw a stranger approaching, she went into the loft and drew the ladder up after her. There she remained until her husband returned.

Prairie fires were a menace. They were easily set and would rush on, burning everything in their path. One such fire occurred in 1889 west of Forman. The whole town fought the fire all day. One swain returned that night in time for his wedding, but with his mustache burned off.

The blizzard of 1888 hit the Forman vicinity with all its fury. It raged for several days during which farmers could not leave their homes even to tend their cattle. During this storm all of the cattle on the Gust Edmund farm froze to death. Mr. Norton, who lived north of the Carl O. Erickson farm, was caught in the storm when he was hauling water. He became lost so he tipped the wagon box and stayed under it for the duration of the storm. A school teacher is known to have perished in this storm.

A. E. Land, who had brought his family to Lisbon in 1883, came to Sargent County in the spring of 1884 as a carpenter and found employment building claim shanties. They were frame buildings, 12 by 12, banked with sod. While he was on the prairie one early spring day he was marooned by a snow storm. J. C. Brandt, who had gone to Lisbon for supplies, couldn't make it back so A. E. lived on flour and water for three days.

To Forman pioneers, water was at a premium. Drinking water at first was obtained from the slough adjacent to the present Hipp garage. Wells were dug in the sloughs, walled up and covered. The story is told that the cooks at a certain farm had no water with which to prepare dinner for the threshing crew. The farmer came along and left the drainings of the machine tank. This was allowed to settle, potatoes were peeled and washed, the water drained off and allowed to settle and clear again. Then it was used to wash dishes. Water was hauled in barrels on "stone boats" from railroad ditches for washing clothes.

Some time after 1885 tubular wells were dug. One such well was located in the northeast corner of the present court house block. Another was immediately behind the Midland House. Farmers came from miles around both day and night to haul water and almost fought to get to the well. Z. O. Patten had a well on the present Dewey farm. Many townspeople got water there. Since there was no way of cooling drinking water in the summer time, the housewife would often keep the water jug in the shadow of the house, moving it as the sun advanced.

Then came the artesian well located on the present site of Harold Hansen's home. For years this was the "town well" from which citizens hauled water to fill their cisterns.

The final step was the city water system which provided an ample supply of water for all purposes.

Waiting His Turn at the Town Well . . .

Carl Swanson, Grandfather of Mrs. Jack Laris

1889 -- What Forman Has

One Bank

One Railroad

Three Hotels

A S.V. Camp

One Paint Shop

Five Law Offices

One Drug Store

The County Seat

A G.A.R. Post

One Barber Shop

Two Newspapers

One Dentist Office

One Jewelry Store

A fine Court House

One Clothing Store

One Millinery and Dress-making Store

One Lumber, Coal and Brick Yard

A $2,000 Congregational Church

Two General Stores

Two Livery Barns

A Population of 300

One Hardware Store

Two Butcher Shops

One Furniture Store

An I.O.G.T. Lodge

A $2,500 School House

Two Blacksmith Shops

Three Machine Depots

One Confectionery Store

An A.F. and A.M. Lodge

Money Order Post Office

One Physician and Surgeon

Several Land and Loan Offices

One Elevator and One Flat House

Three Justice of the Peace Officers

Sargent County Established In 1883

In 1883 the Territorial Legislature of Dakota passed a law creating a new county out of the south half of Ransom County, which it named Sargent in honor of H. E. Sargent, the superintendent of the Northern Pacific Railroad, as an acknowledgment of his interest in the development of the Red River Valley.

On July 16, 1883, Governor Ordway appointed the first County Commissioners, namely: S. B. Haskell, C. C. Newman, and J. R. Herring. Their first meeting was at the home of J. R. Herring on October 8, 1883, when they organized the county by locating the county seat temporarily at Milnor, and appointed the following county officers: Treasurer - E. J. Williams; Register of Deeds - T. C. Lauder; Clerk of Court - J. W. Christian; Superintendent of Schools - Mrs. N. G. Herring; County Judge - L. O. Berg; Sheriff - J. F. Devlin; Coroner - Dr. W. W. Bradley; Surveyor - W. L. Williamson; County Attorney - J. A. Walsh; Assessor - Charles Afdem; Auditor - F. W. Runkel.

In 1884 an election was held and the following county officers were elected: Treasurer - Magnus Nelson; Register of Deeds - T. C. Lauder; Clerk of Court - J. W. Christian; Superintendent of Schools - W. E. Dada; County Judge - L. V. Babcock; Sheriff - F. G. Bartlett; Coroner - H. A. Kleojer; Surveyor - H. A. Soule; County Attorney - C. C. Newman; Assessor - E. A. Enockson.

Forman was elected the county seat at the election in 1884, so it was then moved to Forman in 1886. The officers were housed in the second story of the "Groff Building" (site of present Hardware Store). Some of the county commissioners wanted to place the courthouse in the east end of town, away from the original plat as laid out by the founder, Colonel Forman. They were in the minority, however, so a frame building was put up on the corner south of the present Dry Cleaning establishment.

The county jail, which was a stone and cement structure built in 1889, stood on the south end of the present court yard block. It was torn down in 1910 and a new brick court house was built in the middle of the block. This also housed the county jail.

The County Commissioners at the time this building was erected were: John Sundquist, Peter Weber, Ed C. Enge, Nels Peterson, and James Williamson. R. P. Irving was Auditor.

The following is a list of the early pioneers with the date of arrival, if it is known, and their occupation:

Mr. Fish - Farmer.

Col. C. H. Forman - 1882 - Merchant and Land Owner.

Harry Forman - 1882 - Farmer.

W. C. Forman - 1882 - Farmer and Postmaster.

William Lillywhite - Farmer.

William Baird - Farmer.

L. A. Page - Farmer.

F. A. Purdy - Farmer.

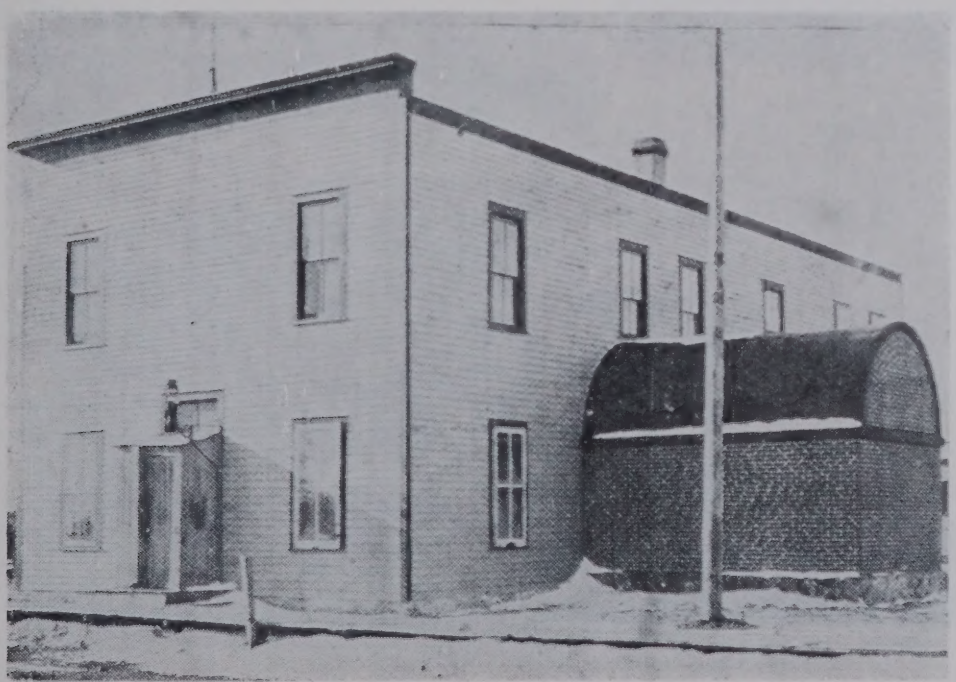
Billy Ballard - Negro from the South - Farmer.

Frank Zimmerly - Farmer.

L. A. Hohaus - 1885 - Farmer.

George Hohaus - 1885 - Farmer.

John Calvert - Farmer.



First Sargent County Courthouse in Forman North Dakota

John Davis - Farmer.

Carl Crandall - Farmer.

William Groff - Merchant.

George McDermott - Merchant and Hotel Manager.

James Thompson - Farmer.

Mr. McGregor - Farmer.

Frank Argersinger - Livery Stable.

James C. Brandt - Farm Machinery and Farmer.

A. C. Brooks - 1885 - Farmer.

Daniel Covey - 1885 - Farmer and Carpenter.

N. H. Dyste - 1885 - Merchant.

J. H. Dyste - 1885 - Merchant.

E. M. Fjelstad - 1884 - Farmer.

A. E. Land - 1883 - Farmer.

Charles M. Scoville - 1885 - Land and Loans.

Edward Anderson - 1885 - Farmer.

Dr. Holloran - 1888 - Physician.

J. D. Vail - 1888 - Bank Cashier.

L. V. Babcock - 1888 - Bank Cashier.

W. S. Baker - 1888 - Merchant.

Alf Ellsworth - 1885 - Newspaper.

J. E. Ellsworth - 1885 - Dentist.

Will Ellsworth - 1885 - Druggist.

W. E. Patterson - 1884 - Real Estate and Teacher.

S. A. Danford - 1884 - County Superintendent and Farmer.

William Hurly - 1887 - Editor.

S. M. Lockerby - 1883 - Attorney.

J. H. Vail - 1884 - Attorney.

First Jail At Forman
Built Of Native Boulders

J. E. Bishop - 1885 - Attorney.

Z. O. Patten - 1885 - Farmer.

James Walsh - 1885 - Attorney.

C. C. Newman - 1885 - Attorney.

L. L. Newman - Farmer.

H. L. VanOrnum - 1882 - Farmer.

R. Wiper - 1885.

E. W. Bowen - 1882 - Farmer and Lawyer.

Present Courthouse — Built In 1910

Forman School In Review

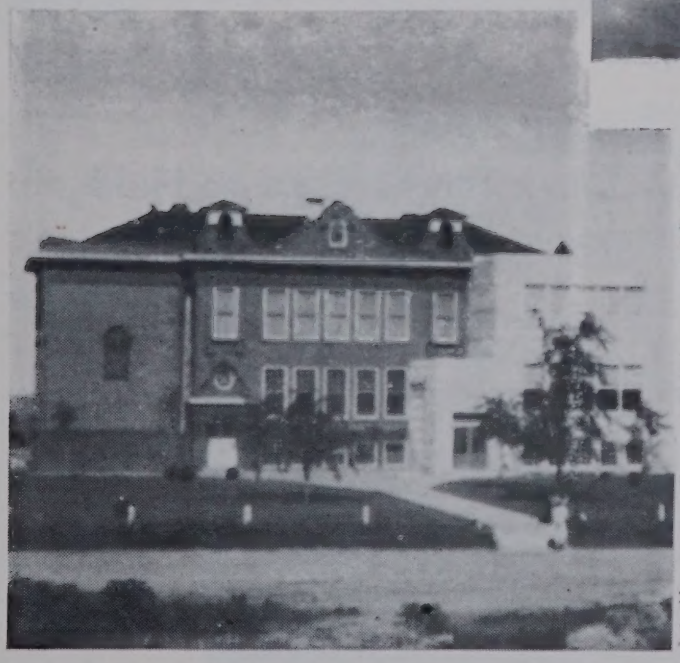
Pictured above is the first Forman school house built in 1884.

"The teachers in the Forman School are giving satisfaction in every way, and the school is ranking among the very best." So reads an item among the locals in The Sargent County Independent for October 22, 1891, published by William Hurly.

The first school house in Forman was a two story frame building erected in 1884. It was located on the west side of Lake Lithia. The heat was furnished by a box cast iron stove, but the furniture was modern with factory made desks and chairs. W. E. Patterson was the first teacher. Other outstanding pioneer teachers and superintendents were: S. A. Danford, Mr. Simpson, Henry Ulve, Flora E. Baker, Nettie Herman, Canna Wiper Himebaugh, Grace Hohaus Wunn, William Wunn and Carrie Tisdel.

To right is a view of Lake Lithia and the school house.

Below can be seen the present day school house



The following were the first eighth grade graduates in the Class of 1904: Ida Hohaus, Helen Lyken, Meng Christian, Mary Groner George Covey, Robert Hohaus, Harry VanOrnum, Morris Dyste, Grant Dietz, Lola Taylor, Blanche Groner and Myrtle Scoville. The Superintendent was Henry Ulve.

Miss Nita Mitchell was the superintendent in 1913 when the Forman School had its first high school graduating class. The pupils were: Percy Dyste, Albert Scoville, Grace Russell and Mary Bowen.

In 1907 and 1908, a red brick building was erected on the site of the frame building across "Lake Lithia". While this was in process classes were held in churches and in the "Woodman Hall".

Immediately preceding World War II a gymnasium and extra class room space was added. As the war came before it was completed, the townspeople pitched in and finished the gymnasium.

Flora E. Baker, Pioneer Educator

Mrs. Flora E. Baker was a resident of our community since territorial days. She was born in Minneapolis October 27, 1868.

Following her graduation from St. Mary's Hall, Faribault, Minnesota, she came "west", driving a team of broncos hitched to a democrat wagon. After teaching a term of school in Milnor, she returned to Minneapolis, later coming to Valley City, Dakota Territory.

Mrs. Flora E. Baker

Flora E. Rice was married to Mr. William Baker in the fall of 1889, and they settled in Forman. Mr. Baker died in 1906. Mrs. Baker and their son, Clinton, continued to make their home in Forman.

Mrs. Baker's first interests were along lines of education, but she took great pride in the promotion of civic affairs as well. She organized Rush Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, in Forman, and was its first worthy matron. She helped organize the Women's Literary Club, which is still active, and was active in Red Cross work. She was a member of the Episcopal Church.

Teachers have come and gone through the years, but being one of our first pioneer teachers, Mrs. Baker, more than any other teacher, lives in the hearts and memories of the boys and girls who have attended the Forman School. She has taught two or more generations of some of our families.

With the unrest of these troublesome times, minds turn more and more to the problems of education.

Pausing to pay tribute to one teacher — Mrs. Baker — she might be considered representative of all workers who have devoted their lives to the cause of young people. We find her students of old recalling incidents of her teaching days. She taught "reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic" sometimes with an iron hand, but who will deny that they learned it well under her supervision?

Can you, as former students, recall a visit to the old home town, without first of all looking up your beloved teacher, Mrs. Baker? You were welcome in her home at all times; not only as a former pupil, but as a friend. She would willingly give advice, if you sought it, or just greet you as one friend to another. She would gladly lend a sympathetic ear to your troubles, or rejoice with you over your successes.

After retiring from active teaching, she became Deputy County Superintendent of Schools in Sargent County, for eight years, and County Superintendent for eight years. She served as a director on the local school board for many years, and also did relief work in adult education.

Mrs. Baker met with a fatal accident in the fall of 1949.

May God bless the memory of this revered teacher of teachers.

Teachers Exams Held In 1888

The following is an item which appeared in the newspaper in 1888:

The examination for teachers will be held at the following places during 1888:

Harlem - June 5th;

Forman - August 7th;

Rutland - October 9th.

Applicants for a first grade certificate will be required to pass an examination upon Geometry, Algebra, Physical Geography, Bookkeeping, Natural Philosophy and Civil Government in addition to the common branches.

Upper Left — Picture shows elephants used for advertising purposes by Hurly Brothers.

Above — Picture of Sheriff Fladby

Left — D. F. Ellsworth

Below — Picture shows Andrew Christensen moving Photograph Gallery.

Scene of the big celebration which was held upon the completion of the Soo Line railroad into Forman

Soo Line Railroad Comes To Forman In 1887

In 1887 when the "Soo Line" was finally built through Forman the people were so delighted at being on a railroad that they had a big celebration. A barebecue was held on the street between the McQuay homes and the Busche residence. There was an enormous table laden with all the country products; and the railroad men, the citizens and surrounding country-folk were present.

The following is the early history of the Soo Line in Forman as written in 1951 by Charles Krumm, who was the first agent.

"The first part of August (1887) I was sent to Forman, North Dakota, as the first agent at that point, which was the end of the line for traffic. Forman then, as now, was the county seat and a fair-sized town for the new sparsely settled country. I found the people friendly and happy to get a railroad, but some of the living conditions were not good. For instance, the water supply was gotten from holes dug in sloughs. There was only one well I knew of, and it was owned by a farmer named Patten, a few miles south of town, who sold water for 40 cents a barrel.

"My first office was in a hand-car shed, but during September the depot was completed and I was happy to move in. The hotel I stayed in burned down and all my belongings, except the clothes I had on, were lost in the fire. My bed after that was in the depot office on a cot.

"The weather was fine all fall. Christmas was warm enough to be outside without a coat, but by January it turned colder with light snows. As many people will remember a severe blizzard hit on January 12th, 1888. After that there were only three round-trip passenger trains up to April 1st, when a snow plow came through clearing the track. During that period a man by the name of Osborne, who lived a mile east of the depot, was seen hauling a load of cord wood up the tracks, the roadway being blocked. The section foreman warned him to leave the tracks as he might get hit by a train. His come-back was: 'It's a poor man that can't dodge a train once in 30 days'.

"The principal income for settlers then was wheat, and aside from the wheat shipments, after harvest, there was very little business for the railroad. Money was scarce."

Early depot agent's since Charles Krumm were Woodruff. Reginald Rickey (1891), Martin Lund, L. C. Mann (1908). The record of the Soo Line Railroad only goes back to 1911, which gives the following agents: Thomas Dougherty - 1911 to 1942; Wilbur Gabel - 1943 to 1945; John Meyer - 1946 to 1948; Ora C. Engle - 1948 to the present.

The first depot was located in the east end of town — directly north of Howard Long's present home. This depot burned, but was rebuilt in the same place. In the early 1920's it was moved to the present site.

Early History of Printing In a Growing Community

Written by the late
W. C. Forman II of Hankinson

The first newspaper published in Forman was the Forman Chronicle. It was founded by one Johnson who published a paper at Lisbon, 25 miles distant, and who was given a bonus of $500 by my uncle, C. H. Forman (founder of the village), to start a newspaper there to aid in the county seat election of 1884. The paper was in charge of Frank J. Smith and the first issue appeared in the summer of 1884. The plant

consisted of a few cases of eight-point body type, a dozen cases of display type, and a Gorden job press large enough to print one page of a five column paper. Smith was a typical tourist printer with all the weaknesses of his kind. I worked under him from the time the paper was started until the spring of 1885, mastering some of the fundamentals of the art preservative. I was then nine years old and recall that on two occasions Smith paid me 25 cents, and this was the sum total of my wages for several months of work—but I presume it was all my services were worth. The Chronicle was discontinued at the end of about a year, that being the length of time Johnson was under contract to keep the sheet alive.

In the fall of 1883, two Lisbon lads (Alfred H. Ellsworth and Bob Doubleday) secured possession of a few pounds of type and an old Adams hand press and started the Item at Dunbar which, in common with nearly all pioneer towns, had county seat ambitions. They kept the paper alive during the winter of 1883-84, although the "town" consisted of less than half a dozen houses. Both the boys were minors but exceptionally clever young fellows. With the approach of the county seat campaign in 1884, the paper was moved to Forman a few weeks after the Chronicle was started.

The Item soon became one of the leading papers of that section and its publication was continued until about 1894. Doubleday returned to his home in New York state in 1886, and Alf Ellsworth sold out to his father, Colonel D. F. Ellsworth, who continued its publication from 1887 to about 1894, when the publication was discontinued. Col. Ellsworth later published the Provost at New Rockford, North Dakota, but it was discontinued after a brief life. Both of the Ellsworths are now dead. The writer was managing editor of the Forman Item from 1891 to 1893, being one of the youngest editors in the state at that time.

In 1888 Wm. Hurly, an uncle of the writer, established the Sargent County Independent at Forman and continued its publication for many years. Subsequently Jay H. Maltby started the Forman News Later the two papers were consolidated.

In 1918 Mr. Maltby moved to Lisbon and the paper was taken over by a Sargent County Farmers Cooperative and renamed the Sargent County Independent News. From this time on there was a succession of editors until it was taken over by Albert Johnson.

He continued to publish it until his death. Since then the editors have been Robert Dugan, Omar Johnson, Loretta Johnson, Charles Frost, Odin Stutrud, and at present A. A. Volkmuth.

Some Firsts In Forman

FIRST SETTLER — Colonel Forman - 1883.

FIRST BUILDING — W. C. Forman's residence - 1883 (Rebuilt and owned by Clifford McQuay)

FIRST CHURCH — Congregational - 1887.

FIRST PASTOR — Rev. Griffith.

FIRST CHOIR — W. E. Patterson, J. E. Ellsworth and Mrs. Rome - Mabel Mullin, organist - 1881.

FIRST TEACHER — W. E. Patterson - 1884.

FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE — Built in 1884.

FIRST BANK — First National - 1887.

FIRST CHILDREN BORN IN FORMAN — Joe Groff and Lida McDermott.

Early View Of Forman. Col. I

The Town

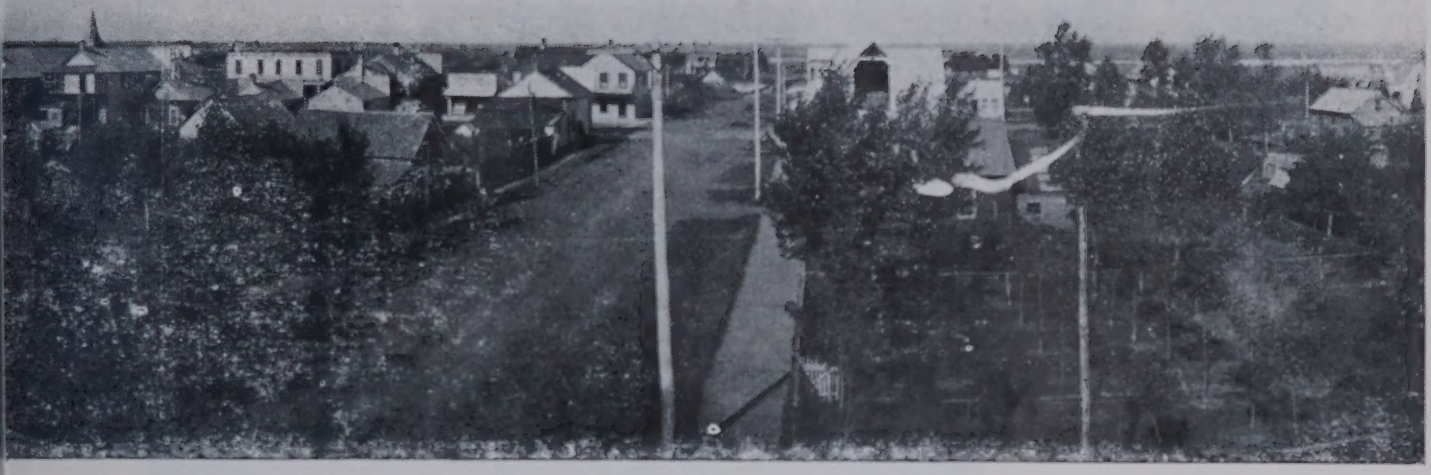
Taken from the Forman Ch

The town of Forman, Sargent County, Dakota, was platted in the fall of 1883, and lots put upon the market immediately afterwards. The town is platted upon the northeast quarter of Section 1, Township 130, Range 56. But forty acres was surveyed as a town at first, but that not being sufficient for the increasing demand, the balance of the quarter was platted in July of the present year, and opened for sale. Such a beautiful spot, such a rich agricultural district. Fit for the gods.

Today we have a town unequalled and unexcelled by but one in the county. We have a town that will ere long, rank above that. To visit Forman is but recreation, and the general verdict is that we will shortly outshine the present county seat. Although but one year old and never "boomed" in a sense, we have improvements that are the envy of our sister towns.

At the present time we have in reality a hotel 40x50 feet with comfortable accommodations for thirty-five guests costing $7.000, and furnishings $1,000. The running expense per week of this concern is near $100. A store building and post-office, 24x40 feet, costing $3,000, and holding a stock of goods valued at $5,000. A magnificent school building that stands without an equal in the county. The cost of this edifice is $2.500 and when the furniture is in $500 more.

A tower sixty-five feet high will denote the hour for miles around. A drug store and printing



rman's Home Is In Foreground.

Of Forman

nicle of September 24, 1884

office, 22x40 feet, with plate glass front costing $3,000. A handsome resident, 26x32, costing $2,000; and two cozy cottages. 18x24 feet, costing $700. A hardware store, 20x30 feet, costing $2,000. A city hall and billiard parlor, 24x40 feet, now being erected, will cost $1,200. All of the above are two-story buildings.

A printing office occupied by this paper, 18x25 feet, cost $400; two real estate offices, 16x24 feet, cost $400; a windmill and well, 175 feet deep, cost $700; two blacksmith shops, 24x36 feet, each costing $250; a railroad grade ready for iron. The estimates for barns, stables carriage houses, and granaries is placed at $2,000.

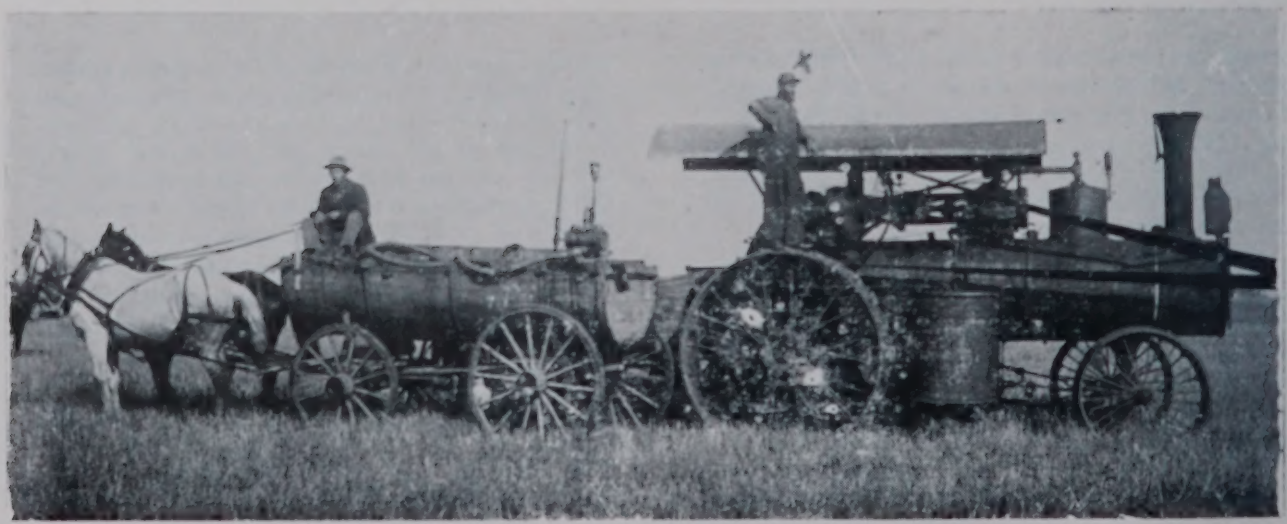
Each of the above mentioned buildings are bonifide and are finished in the most exquisite style modern genius could conceive. The enormous sum of $27,000 has been estimated for improvements and we are only a year old at that. Where will we be one year hence? It is plainly and easily answered. We will be ahead—one of the finest and thriftiest inland cities of Dakota and the people's pride capitol of Sargent County.

We are building right along. A score of carpenters and painters are completing buildings underway at a rate that is truly wonderful. The town of Forman is not a "paper one," but we have the stuff to verify our statements. Lumber is daily arriving for store buildings. Lumber is daily arriving for private residences. We have it. Come and see.

Pictured at Left:
View of the parlor of Midland Hotel, early day hotel. Mrs. Cookson can be seen sitting in a rocker at the right.

Pictured at Right:
Pete West shoeing horse in blacksmith shop.

Pictured Below:
Early Day
Threshing Rig



People Housed In Various Hotels

As the years have passed since 1334 Forman has seen many hotels and many hotel keepers. Before the advent of the automobile it was the habit of the traveling salesmen to come into Forman on the Soo Line with their big trunks of samples. As it was necesary for them and people in other professions to spend the night, the pioneer hotels did a flourishing business.

The pioneers who are still in Forman tell of a hotel located in the east end of town built by Mr. Wells at about the time of the coming of the railroad. This is verified by the account given by Mr. Krumm, the first depot agent; for he tells that the hotel in which he was living in 1887 burned, destroying all of his belongings.

At about this time Sidney Mullen built the Washburn House on the lot west of the present Thompson Yards. This hotel had a succession of operators and therefore a succession of names. Under the operation of Mr. Dewey it was called the Dewey House. Other proprietors were: Z. O. Patton, Mr. Peitz, Frank Argersinger, Mr. Manion, Mr. Otterson and Mr. Hoffman. This hotel burned down in 1914.

The earliest of all recorded hotels were the Midland House and the Bellview. The Midland House was built by Colonel Forman and operated

by his son-in-law, Mr. McDermott. This, too, had a succession of operators: Fred Richardson, Theodore Cookson, Wipers, Wells, Fergusons and Fred Groff. It was torn down to build the Texaco oil Station.

Not much is remembered about the Bellview House, located where Flesnesses now have a cafe except that the building was moved in from Kindred and was operated by Mr. Ewan in 1896. The building has since been used by various people for different purposes.

After the Midland House was torn down, Forman was without a hotel for many years until the Community Trust was formed to build the present modern hotel which is under the able management of Mr. Leo A. Brooks.

Churches Help Mold A Community

HISTORY OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

The early settlers who constituted the nucleus of the congregation came to Forman and vicinity in 1883, 1884, 1885 and 1886. They came from Norway, Denmark and Sweden in the usual immigrant way seeking land. Some came on foot, some by ox cart and some in the covered wagon, and settled mostly in Forman and Rutland townships. Most of them were poor in material goods, but they had a heritage that wealth cannot buy. From the Lutheran church in the homeland they came with faith in God, love for His Word and devotion to His Church.

Their first concern after providing the necessary food and shelter, was to have the word of God preached in the faith and language of their fathers. The first Lutheran pastor who preached in this settlement was Rev. Gustav Westerlund, who was serving the Nordland Congregation in Rutland. He conducted services in the Brandt school house two and one-half miles south of Forman during the summer of 1887. He usually walked from his homestead east of Rutland.

An organization meeting was held in the Brandt school house at which time a proposed constitution was adopted and signed by 21 charter members: Niels Arntzen, Andrew Finrow, H. J. Jorgenson, N. H. Dyste, Ole K. Reitan, J. C. Brandt, Peter J. Narum, C. Nielsen, Henry Gardner, A. E. Land, August Lindberg, Edward Anderson, E. Fjelstad, Frank Lindberg, A. Sannes, E. H. Dyste, A. Sundlie, Martin Martinson, Olaf Skaga, Ove Peter Christianson and Gilbert Elken.

Rev. Westerlund served the congregation from 1888 to 1891 when services were held in the Brandt school house. The first cemetery was dedicated on November 4, 1888. It is 3 miles south of Forman on land donated by August Lindberg.

Rev. Lavik of Milnor served the congregation from 1891 to 1912. In 1906 a church was built 5 miles south and three-fourths of a mile east of Forman on land donated by Alfred Sannes. Elling Jensen, John P. Lunstad and Peter Narum served on the building committee, and the builder was Adolph Glorvick. As services were discontinued in this church, it was moved to Havana where it can still be used as a place of worship.

When the membership increased, it was felt necessary to have services in town so Rev. Sander Tollefson was called and the Congregational Church was used until the present building was erected in 1914. The building committee consisted of Nels Dyste, Edward Anderson and Even Fjelstad; with Henry Gardner and Chester Smith as the builders. Hans Hall solicited subscriptions and donated substantially to the building fund.

Pastors who have served since Rev. Tollefson left in 1916 are Rev. Gjernes and Rev. Rotto.

The women of the church have been active in aid work. Their first public event was a dinner and sale held in the court house building in 1892. They were not officially organized until in 1900, when the following charter members met at the home of Mrs. J. C. Brandt: Mrs. Gertrude Land, Mrs. Nels Dyste, Mrs. Elling Jensen, Mrs. Edward Anderson, Mrs. Ole Silseth, Mrs. Niels Arntzen, Mrs. J. C. Brandt, Mrs. E. H. Dyste, Mrs. J. H. Dyste, Mrs. H. O. Gardner, Mrs. Even Fjeldstad, Mrs. J. P. Lunstad, Mrs Claus Evenson and Mrs. Emelie Christensen.

The early Sunday School was conducted in the Norwegian language and among the first teachers were Mr. and Mrs. Nels Dyste, Mrs. H. O. Gardner and Mrs. J. H. Dyste.

The first organist was Bertha Dyste Hurly, who started playing as a child and continued for more than thirty years. Succeeding regular organists were Mrs. Maltrud and Mrs. Bernice Larson. The present organist is Mrs. Glenn Oleson, with Clarice Knutson as assistant.

During the past year the Trinity Lutheran congregation has built a parish education building which will be dedicated in June.

HISTORY OF ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

It was not until 1913 that Father McArdle, with the able assistance of the trustees of the Forman congregation, Mr. Charles A. Walloch and Mr. Thomas Dougherty, organized a financial drive with a view to constructing a Catholic Church in Forman. The Catholic families at that time who gave generously toward this worthy cause and who can be considered the charter members of the parish were: Charles Walloch, Thomas Dougherty, Albert Fradette, Peter Lock, John Eiler, George Eiler, Joseph Fernbaugh, John Fernbaugh, Emil Glowik, Frank Glowick, Charles Rehak, John Baltes, John Even, John Baumchen, Henry Nathe, Carl Napravnik, P. H. Murray, Mrs. J. Cookson, Mrs. Wm. Cookson and Mrs. Armstrong.

Other families that joined the Forman Catholic Church before 1920 and shared the burden of liquidating the debt were: Mathew Mahrer,

Casper Nathe, Gerhart Nathe, Peter Gleasing, E. A. Greenwood, Mrs. H. B. Beeson and Joseph Kulzer.

Actual construction of the church building was begun in April 1914, by Ritterbush and Son, contractors, of Oakes. In the following year Bishop O'Reilly of Fargo came to Forman and confirmed in the newly constructed church. The supervision of the finishing work on the church and the purchase of church furnishings was made by Father Mathew Hart, who had succeeded Father McArdle.

In 1916 Father Hart was replaced by Father P. B. Fogarty, who served the Catholics of Forman until 1922. It was under his pastorate that the debt of the church was liquidated.

Father Fogarty was replaced by Father Edward Melly of Cayuga in 1923, who was succeeded by Father T. J. O'Sullivan of Cayuga in 1924. Father O'Sullivan served the Forman church as a mission of Cayuga until 1933 when he was replaced by Father John Stempl. Father Stempl administered to the needs of the Catholics until 1936, when Forman was returned to Cogswell as a mission. Rev. T. J. Eagleston (1936-1940), Rev. Michael Simon (1940-1942), and Rev. John Lugert (1942-1957) successively assumed charge of St. Mary's Church of Forman until July of 1957, when it was raised to the status of an independent parish, with Father Gerald Weber as first resident pastor. His first task was to build a rectory on the tract of land that had been purchased by his predecessor.

The charter members of St. Mary's Guild and Altar Society were: Mrs. R. P. Irving, Mrs. Charles Rehak, Mrs. E. A. Greenwood, Mrs. Henry Beeson, Mrs. John Baumchen, Mrs. William Cookson, Mrs. John Cookson, Mrs. Gerritt Warnshuis, Mrs. Fred Graf, Mrs. John Even, Mrs. John Eiler, Mrs. Carl Naprovnik, Mrs. Peter Gleesing, Mrs. Charles Walloch, Mrs. Thomas Dougherty, Mrs. John Baltes, Mrs. Margaret Armstrong, Mrs. Peter Lock, Mrs. Math Bauman, Mrs. Casper Nathe, Mrs. Math Mahrer, Mrs. Henry Mahrer, Mrs. Frank Bommersbach, Mrs. Joe Kulzer, Mrs. Joe Fernbaugh, Mrs. W. P. Smith, Mrs. Mary Gronlund, Mrs. Peter Klinkhammer, Mrs. Charles Crandall, Mrs. Bert Thompson, Mrs. Mary Nogowski and Mrs. Val Orth.

The officers who contributed much to this organization by giving generously of their time and talents were: Mrs. Charles Rehak, Mrs. Charles Walloch, Mrs. Peter Klinkhammer, Mrs. Thos. Dougherty and Mrs. Charles Crandall.

HISTORY OF METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Church was organized in 1885 by S. A. Danford, who was also a school teacher. The first meetings were conducted in a school house just west of Bishop's grove, west of Forman, which was originally William Forman's tree claim.

When Mr. Danford was elected County Superintendent, he left the ministry and the next minister we hear of is Rev. James Anderson. At this time services were conducted in the court room of the old court house. Rev. Gillespie assisted Rev. Anderson with a series of revival meetings during 1892 to 1894 and it was at this time that the congregation was organized. They purchased a machine shed from J. C. Brandt located on the corner where Munson's Jewelry store now stands. This they remodelled into a church building.

The first deacons were: S. A. Baker, Robert Wiper, George Hohaus, A. M. Simpson, W. W. Bradley and A. M. Scoville. A short time later a parsonage was built. This is the house now occupied by John Millerhagen. Rev. and Mrs. P. J. Scott and their two children, Lillian and Wilbur, were probably the first ones to occupy the new parsonage.

The Forman parish was often united with Havana or Cogswell or both. Other pastors who served these churches were: Rev. Pringle, Rev. Mahon and Rev. Beer.

In pioneer days the popular time for church services was in the evening and the attendance was always very good. Mr. and Mrs. Baker were members of the first choir and Sadie Baker was the first organist. She served only a short time, for Edith Hurly was organist as early as 1897.

Although there are no records, it is known that there was a very active Sunday School and a live ladies aid.

A diary left by S. A. Sanford gives this entry for April 26, 1885: "Preached at Forman. Organized Sunday school after services".

The church ceased to function about 1919 and was torn down around 1923. Several years later the parsonage was sold.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Seventy-two years ago this church was struggling against the odds of a newly settled country. The preachers prayed and the women worked. A share of the all-roving type of restless population had settled here and a church coping with such a populace found religious work an uphill job. Colonel Forman donated the lots on which the church stands.

A small band of cheerful worshippers held their first services in the northeast room of the Midland House. When this became too crowded, they moved to the school house. In 1887 building operations began, with the help of Rev. Stickney, the superintendent from Fargo. Early pastors were Rev. Barnes, W. D. Griffith, S. A. Sanford and E. P. LaCall. The members of the first choir were W. E. Patterson., F. H. Purdy, Carrie Ellsworth, J. E. Ellsworth, Mrs. Rome, Lena Osborne and Jack Yaiser. Mabel Mullin was the organist.

In June of 1888 a ladies aid was organized at the home of Mrs. Emma F. Vail. Other ladies present were: Mrs. Dora Argersinger and Mrs. Ella B. Hurly

In 1897 a lot and parsonage were purchased. (Mrs. Petra Jens n now owns that property.)

During the following years many ministers were called, served for a time, and departed. Some of them were William Gillespie, Steven Williams, Lewis B. Vaugh, William Haley, and many others.

Best remembered was Rev. Ross and his family, who were all musical. He organized the only Sunday School orchestra in Sargent County and the Sunday School grew by leaps and bounds as a result of his efforts.

Others who served were Miss Rose Holstein (Mrs. R. W. Safstrom), John Langness, William Ebers. William Osborne, James Davidson and William Jurgenson. The present pastor is Rev. Glenn Gabel of Lidgerwood.

A few early clerks were F. H. Purdy, Frances Marcellus (25 years), R. L. Himebaugh, A. M. Groner and A. C. Dada.

Early organists were Mable Mullin, Mrs. Simon Mills, Violet Maltby, Edith Hurly, Gertrude Hurly Jones. Mildred Hurly Cookson and Vivian Hurly Dewey.

Early Sunday School superintendents were L. V. Babcock, A. M. Groner, W. E. Nelson and Mrs. Jennie Jones, who served faithfully for 25 years.

Banking Comes To Forman With County Seat

In 1887 L. V. Babcock and J. D. Vail organized a bank in Forman. By 1895 they had paid off the depositors and closed the bank. For a few years there was no bank in Forman, when money was sent by rail to Minneapolis and later to Lidgerwood.

In the late 1890's John and Frank Mitchell organized the Forman State Bank. On November 1, 1902, this state bank became the First National Bank of Forman. It was housed in a building on the corner north of Grothe's Implement. J. L. Mitchell was elected president, Frank Mitchell, vice president, and R. L. Himebaugh, cashier. In 1907 they put up the building which was recently razed to make room for the new structure. A few years later A. B. Carlson was elected assistant cashier, and remained with the First National until he organized a bank at Cogswell.

Some years later J. P. Gunderson was elected cashier and Himebaugh advanced to vice-president, where he remained until 1924.

A Farmers State Bank was organized in 1915 and closed in 1926. It was housed in the present post office building.

In the fall of 1930 the First National Bank closed and there were several changes in banking.

In the early 1930's Mr. Stern of Fargo started a State Bank which was managed by Mr. Gilmen Maltrud. This continued until 1937 when Mr. Gilman Klefstad moved his bank from Havana to Forman, which is now operating in the beautiful new building on the corner.

The present officers are: president, Gilman Klefstad; executive vice president, Gilmen Maltrud; cashier, Harlan Klefstad.

New Building

The photo on the left shows Forman's newest business house. It is the home of the Sargent County Bank, completed during the past year.

The photo at left shows the Louie Steimke Hardware Store in 1886. Mr. Steimke is on the extreme left.

The best harness makers in the northwest, Claus Evenson & Louis Steimke.

Organizations Are Many In a Growing Community

Forman Society Directory
June 28, 1889

A.F. & A.M. - Golden Fleece Lodge No. -. Regular meetings on the first and third Saturday's in each month, at 7:30 p.m., in G.A.R. Hall, Forman, N. Dak.
J. D. Vail, secretary B. K. Rush. W.M.

G.A.R. - Ambrose Freeman Post No. 111. Department of Dakota. Regular meeting on the first Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 p.m., in Grand Army Hall, Forman, N. Dak.
J. W. Christan, adjt. E. A. Hendricks. cmdr.

S.V. - E. J. Hendricks Camp No. 3. Division of Dakota. Regular meetings on the first and third Wednesday's in each month, at 8 pm., in G.A.R. Hall. Forman, N. Dak.
Alf H. Ellsworth, O.S. W. A. Ellsworth, Capt.

I.O.G.T. - Forman Lodge No. 229. Regular meetings every Monday evening at Court-House Hall, Forman N. Dak.
F. H. Purdy, W.S. J. E. Bshop, C.T.

The above items taken from a Forman Newspaper of 1889, show that the people of Forman have been active in service organizations from pioneer times to the present.

EASTERN STAR

Rush Chapter No. 61 O.E.S. of Forman was granted a charter on July 1, 1908. Logan Chapter No. 2 of Oakes assisted in the organization and work. The Chapter was named in honor of an early resident, Mr. Rush.

Charter members of the organization were: Mrs. Annie Holding, Mrs. Lavina Holding, Mrs. Canna Himebaugh, Mrs. Flora E. Baker, Miss Juliet Christian, Miss Edith Hurly, J. E. Wiper, Mrs. Francis Marcellus, Mrs. Clara Wiper, Mrs. Dora Argersinger, Mrs. Alice Maltby, Mrs. Eva McKenzie, Mrs. Mary Barney, Mrs. Josephine Carlbloom, G. F. Christiansen, J. N. Christian, R. L. Himebaugh, Miss Louise Christiansen and Mrs. Ella B. Hurly.

The first three officers of Rush Chapter were: Mrs. Flora E. Baker, Worthy Matron; R. L. Himebaugh, Worthy Patron; and Miss Edith Hurly, Associate Matron.

MASONIC LODGE

As the pioneers came into Sargent County and the vicinity of Forman there were many among them who were members of Masonic Lodges in other states. It was natural, therefore, that they were drawn together and the Golden Fleece Lodge of Forman was started.

Mr. Rush, for whom the Order of Eastern Star of Forman was named, arrived in Forman in 1887 or 1888. On April 15, 1889, the Golden Fleece Lodge applied to the Grand Lodge of Dakota Territory for a dispensation. This was the last dispensation granted by the territory. On March 9, 1889, the Golden Fleece officers had appeared before the Anchor Lodge at Milnor and were recommended by that lodge and by the Hope Lodge at Oakes.

The photo above shows the OLD WOODMAN HALL, a gathering place for people living in the Forman area.

A. F. Price and L. V. Babcock were delegates to the Grand Lodge of Dakota Territory at Mitchell, S. Dak., on June 13, 1889. The dispensation was granted and then the Grand Lodge split into North and South Dakota lodges. The charter was granted to the Golden Fleece Lodge in June of 1890, at the first meeting of th North Dakota Grand Lodge.

Among the charter members was Benjamin Rush, who owned a blacksmith shop east of the present Mobil gas station. Other charter members were: George Montgomery, Amenzo Cook, James Vail, Albert Price, Edgar Hendricks, Lucius Babcock, William Hurly, George Merrifield, John Boner, Hamilton Emanuel, John Mulholland, Thomas Nicholson, Charles Rust, Ambrose Wiley, Cyrus War and Frank Zimmerly.

E. W. Bowen was the first person to be initiated after the lodge was formed. The firs. officers were: Benjamin Rush, Worshipful Master; Lucius Babcock, Senior Warden, and James Vail, Junior Warden.

In the early 1900's the lodge met in the rooms above the Hurly store. From 1911 to 1940 the lodge rooms were on the second floor of the Woodman Hall. When that building was torn down they were moved back to the Hurly building but a fire there in 1952 forced the lodge to seek other quarters, so the present basement building was constructed.

AMERICAN LEGION and AUXILIARY

The American Legion of Forman was organized on November 8th, 1919, with Dr. Benson as chairman. Election of officers resulted as follows: Post Commander, Dr. Benson; Vice Post Commander, Harold Dyste; Adjutant, Monroe Smith; Finance Officer, John Napravnik; Chaplain, Albert Scoville; Committee on By-laws, Geo. Merchant, Charlie Jackman, Otto Kastner. Other charter members include J. E. Davis, Olaf Nundahl, Iver Gronlund, Elmer Scoville, W. P. Smith, Lloyd Bell, Melfin Glowik, Norman Hosier, Alvin Gronlund, Ben Moltz and Elmer Scoville.

Some Posts were named in honor of WW 1 dead. Forman was fortunate in not losing any service men in that war, and thus the present name and number, Sargent Post No. 82, Forman, North Dakota. Several local boys, in WW 2, made the supreme sacrifice for their country, namely Orville Dyste, Morris Fiados, Reed Kerling, Albert C. Joanson and Dr. Emil Jepson. All honor is given to the memory of these young men for their sacrifice to guard our safety.

The American Legion Auxiliary was organized five years after the Legion, on February 24, 1924. Mrs. Monroe Smith was chairman of the organizational meeting. Election of officers was as follows: president, Mrs. Monroe Smith; vice president, Mrs. Geo. Merchant; secretary, Miss Margaret Smith; treasurer, Mrs. Mabel Thompson Wells; historian, Mrs. L. D. Valls; sergeant at arms, Mrs. W. P. Smith. Other charter members were Mrs. I. Grangard, Mrs. Olaf Nundahl, Mrs. John Gronlund, Mrs. Wm. Jackman, Mrs. Chas. Jackman. The highest enrollment has been fifty-nine members. To-date there have been thirty different presidents.

We honor Gold Star Mothers, namely Mrs. H. O. Dyste, Mrs. L. Kerling, Mrs. O. Flados, and Mrs. O. B. Johnson, whose sons made the supreme sacrifice in WW 2.

Community service, education of orphans and veterans, national and civil defense, press, radio and television are other phases of work undertaken by the unit. Since this is an organization of service to others, there is not much time to devote to oneself. Nevertheless, the members are active in church, school, home and community.

Since the beginning of the project "Girls State, in 1947, there have been thirteen girls sent to Grand Forks. These girls spend a week in June at the University, where they get intensive training in local, county, state and national government

Pictured above (left to right): Wm. Bowser, Sidney Mullin and Joe Lewis as they appeared for a Memorial Day celebration.

WOMEN'S LITERARY CLUB

In 1903 Mrs. L. S. Taylor entertained a group of ladies at a "Literary Tea". The outcome of this party was the Women's Literary Club of Forman. The charter members were Mrs. L. S. Taylor, Mrs. McCurry, Mrs. D. J. Jones, Mrs. Ray Himebraugh, Mrs. Hero Taylor, Mrs. R. P. Irving, Mrs. S. E. Sweetman, Mrs. John Christian and Mrs. Flora Baker.

The original purpose of the club was for the literary advancement of the members; but down through the years the club has been of service to the youth and the needy of the community. It was instrumental in getting a tennis court built and sponsored the Boy Scouts. The pioneer ladies of the club contributed immeasurably in writing up the history of Pioneer Days for future reference and for preservation for posterity.

In 1915 an Auxiliary Club was organized which was known at the Fortnightly Club. The first meeting of this club was at the home of Mrs. A. C. Dada on November 6, 1915. It dissolved after a few years and many of its members joined the Women's Literary Club.

These two clubs were instrumental in starting a cemetery fund. The members, especially the president of the cemetery committee, have put in long hours and raised a great deal of money to keep the Forman cemetery in its present good condition.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Among the present-day clubs are the Homemakers Clubs, of which there are three groups in Forman, namely The Evening Star, The Hub City and the Forman Homemakers. There are two 4-H Clubs, the Merry Maids and the Sargenettes.

Cub Scouts and the Morning Doves take care of the younger children.

Church youth groups are CYO, Luther League and Youth Fellowship.

Photo at left shows Dave Jones sr. and nephew in an early model car.

Telephone Service Has Meager Beginning Before 1900

The first telephone in Forman was in Dr. Bradley's house (the present Aarseth home). This was prior to 1900, but the tax receipts for 1909 show that there was a Forman Telephone Company with the receipts made out to W. W. Bradley. The 1910 receipts bear the name of Robert Hanna. In 1910 there was also the Northwestern Telephone Company, which is thought to be a subsidiary of the Bell System. In 1919 the Northwestern Bell Company bought out the others.

For several years there was a tiny switchboard in the post office (Jack Davis' building on main street), which was operated by "Frankie" Marcellus, the wife of the postmaster. This, of course, was closed at night so if one was in need of telephone service, it was necessaryto go all the way to the Marcellus home (present Ed Erickson place) to get the operator.

When the bank was erected on the site of the present Sargent County Bank, the switchboard was moved to the upstairs rooms at the west end. Among the first "Hello Girls" were Ann McPhail Scoville and Catherine Richels. Mary Bowen Petterson was chief operator for several years. Serving under her, either as relief or night operators, were Genevieve Bowen Keen, Lola Argersinger Candor, Irene Argersinger Skaarer, and Helen Russel. Mabel Thompson Englerth, Archie Thompson, Margaret Smith Munson and Edna Dewey Taylor were other operators.

One operator describes the work of these people as follows: "What a life we had; 24 hours a day, night buzzer. We were the toll center for all the towns around, gave the market reports and collected all bills each month—tramping around town from door to door in rain and snow, slush and mud."

For many years there was a line operating out of Rutland. This is thought to have been The Sargent County Telephone Company—a stock company with Peter Narum as the head. There was no switchboard in connection with this line. Dyste's store was on the line so any one in Forman wishing to visit with their Rutland friends used that phone, free of charge.

Another line, operating between Forman and Havana, was built and owned by Henry Gardner, Andrew Land, Even Fjelstad and John Powers. This was built in 1905. The patrons had to put down the poles on their land, but the wires were strung for them. Andy Anderson and Ole Lunstad dug the holes for all the poles from the Great Northern track to Havana, receiving the handsome sum of ten cents a hole. There was no switchboard nor operator so the patrons were charged only twelve dollars a year, until the line was hooked up to the central in Forman; when it was raised to twenty-five dollars a year. A switch was put into the Jens Jensen farm so those on the Havana line could be connected to those on the Rutland line. These lines were discontinued in 1935 or 1936 when the poles were removed and the wire was rolled up.

Managers at Forman since 1950 have been Eden L. Ploof, Orville L. Rydquist, C. R. Smith, F. E. Lundberg, J. B. Murphy, D. F. Kosmatka.

Early swithchboard operators (l to r) Mary Bowen Petterson and Genevieve Bowen Keen.

CAN YOU GUESS?...

Goppy	Toby	Humpy
Snake	Curly	Shakespeare
Mutt	Pood	Chilly
Abe	Whip	Pixie
Fried	Johnny Butch	Chaud
Rod	Zip	Stave
Bub	Merch	Honey
Ole	Sockless	Sonny
Jiggs	Speed	Baldy
Jam	Dudley	P. B.'s
Jelly	Hi	Pancake Joe
Sally	Jake	Gold Tooth
Sonny Bub	Trude	Cap
Hap	Stub	Skinny
Snooze	Bun	Jug
Tiny	Did	Dad
Hank	Skeeks	Prof
Butch	Jug Head	Five Smarties
Mud	Scoop	Mickey
Coola	Putt	Luke
Tint	Jack	Lewie
Cyclops	Fin	Cotton
Cheese	Mid	Baby
Crackers	Bee	Spike
T Bone Tillie	Duffy	Rattle Snake Pete
Rhodie	Leton	Stumpy
Doe	Cac	Dudy
White Steamer	Monk	Cannie
Bean	Pike	Stinky
Mac	Swede	Ray
Les	Johnny	Babe
Pratt	Hymie	Jackie
Moonlight	Poik	Wid
C. M.	Gene	Nummy
L. D.	Ole B	Dave
Ike	Tippy	Lew

FROM YEARS GONE BY . .

1904

At a depth of 840 feet a fine artesian well has been secured at the livery stable, and the water is as clear as crystal. Joe Hobbins is about to put down a similar well for Mr. Judson on the Belle Plane Ranch, half a mile south of town. The cost of these wells is $450—everything furnished.

A. E. Land has purchased a block and a half of land from Col. C. H. Forman, just west of the school house. It is surmised that Andrew will build on it, rent his farm and move to the city. This sale, outside of a couple water lots, clears up Col. Forman's interest in the townsite.

Wm. Cassen sold his house and lots to O. B. Johnson.

Prairie chickens, hunters claim, seem to have been pretty well cleared up here before September 1st. And hunters are to blame for it!

On account of putting down an artesian well, I have a first class wind mill and tower for sale cheap. Frank Argersinger

Dr. Wm. Judson has resumed his studies at the University of Minnesota. He made many friends during his stay here and all will welcome him back.

Mrs. Mary Hudson of Forman is getting a good many orders for her clever song, "Now the Stars Wink." 1913 Paper

C. F. Cole, E. M. Fjelstad, Andrew Christenson and Frank Fogel were a foursome going to Fargo the first of the week to attend Rumley school for gasoline engineers. — 1913 Paper

1908

FOR SALE: 400 bushels of Seed Barley in first class condition, 75 cents per bushel. Frank Anderson, Bowen Township.

NOTICE FOR BIDS FOR BUILDING SCHOOL HOUSE

Sealed proposals for building one brick school house at Forman, N. Dak., will be received at the office of the Clerk of the School Board at Forman, N. Dak., up to noon of May 12, 1908.

Plans and specifications may be seen at the office of Louis Steimke, President of Board, at Forman, N. Dak.

The board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

LOUIS STEIMKE,
President of School Board

Attest: C. H. FORMAN,
Clerk of Board

May, 1908

NEW FEED STABLE

- DAILY TERMS -

NOON HOUR — 10c for single horse - 15 cents for team

Per Day for Team — 25c

We Invite Your Patronage

Geo. Benton, Forman

FORMAN OPERA HOUSE

The MWA Bldg. Finest Auditorium Sargent County

Good Stage - Good Lights - Reasonable Rates

The City Livery Barn

S. M. BELL & SON, props.
Successors to Frank Argersinger

FORMAN, NORTH DAKOTA

Good Rigs and Careful Drivers

YOUR PATRONAGE IS SOLICITED

Here It Is . . .
MAXWELL 25-4 . . . $750

SOLD BY WALLOCK & DYSTE

1908 Timetable and Invitation

Soo Line Time Card

FORMAN

No. 94	Passenger, Eastbound	10:50 p.m.
No. 95	Passenger, Westbound	6:31 a.m.
No. 94	Freight, Eastbound	3:45 p.m.
No. 95	Freight, Westbound	9:05 a.m.

Both Daily (except Sundays)
All Carry Passengers

L. C. MANN, Agent

An Invitation That Looks Good!

Havana - May 26, 1908

Editor Forman News:

Through your paper we would like to invite everybody to a picnic at Golden Hill Farm June 6th . . . Baseball, boating and a dance; lemonade and coffee all day. Bring the children and leave your pocketbook at home.

WILLIAMSON BROS.

Do You Remember? . . .

Skating on Lake Lithia?

Swimming in the old swimming hole west of town?

The Community Christmas programs in the town hall?

Buying homemade butter in five-pound jars?

Hooking rides behind "bob-sleighs"?

The "Tom-Thumb" wedding?

Walking the railroad ties on a Sunday afternoon?

Playing croquet, even in January?

The fire that destroyed the Washburn hotel one night?

When the depot was located east of town?

The Forman Gun Club that put on a big hunting contest in 1907?

Going to school to Prof. Ulve?

The home talent play put on by the men?

Swimming in Lake Lithia?

Sam Sweetman playing croquet?

O. B. Johnson, Gene and Charlie Marcellus playing chess in the post office?

The first telephone switch board in the old post office building?

Hauling water to make a toboggan slide on the hill south of Scovilles (Tiedemans)?

Basket socials when the swain would pay up to $25.00 for his lady's basket?

The Minneapolis orchestra that played for dances in the winter time?

Carrying a muff to keep your hands warm?

How every one in town went to the post office to get the mail in the evening?

Going to the depot to "watch the train" come in?

Your first automobile ride?

Dressing around the parlor hard coal heater on cold winter mornings?

The peddlers who travelled by "horse and buggy"?

"Sister Davidson"?

Going to Sunday school picnics out at Bishop's grove?

That many of Forman's earliest buildings were moved in from Dunbar, a village three and a half miles north of Forman?

Chautauquas?

The first radio in town bought by the business men and set up in the back room of the old bank building and operated by Chris Fricke and Ben Moltz?

The first silent movies with music by the Dada girls and dances in the Woodman hall?

The baseball teams with local and imported players, the tennis court and the golf course west of town with the first tee located on the site of Rex Bell's barn?

When Gene Hatch hauled water to the homes in an old wooden water tank with a team of horses?

The Old Settlers Day celebrations?

Taking your best girl for a ride with a surrey and a team or for a bob-sleigh ride?

Picnic at Williamson's grove (The Fred and Frank Chesley farm)?

When the band stand was located on the corner where Munsons' store is and Saturday night concerts were given by community and high school bands?

The Creamery located where Mrs. Andrew Christensen's house is?

Joe Lewis, a Civil War veteran?

Sheriff W. T. Jackman and his family of boys?